

Amendments to the Drawings

Please substitute Figures 1, 3, and 7 with the attached replacement figures.

Remarks

Amendments to the Specification

The specification has been amended to replace the term “housing” with the term “keyhousing” in order to specifically clarify the characteristic of the present invention. Referring to the paragraphs [0003], [0017] and [0018] together with Figs. 2 and 5-7 of the present specification, it should be understood that the “keyhousing” is a specific term to represent “the housing used for inserting a key cap.” No new matter is introduced by way of this amendment.

Amendments to the Drawings

Figs. 1, 3, and 7 are amended to comply with 37 CFR 1.84 (p)(5) and 37 CFR 1.83(a) in accordance with Examiner’s request. Fig. 1 is amended to remove the reference character 103. Fig. 3 is amended to remove the reference characters 302 and 312. Fig. 7 is amended to illustrate the screws 719 specified in the claims. No new matter is added by way of these amendments.

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 8-11 are amended to clarify the characteristics of the present invention in order to overcome the prior art documents cited by Examiner. In addition, Applicants also add Claims 12-14 depending upon Claim 8 and independent Claim 15 together with its dependent Claims 16-20, all for reciting other characteristics of the present invention. These amendments are based on the original specification, e.g. [0017] to [0019] and Figs. 2, and 3-7. Accordingly, it should be understood that no new matter is introduced into the above amendments.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 8-10 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Gotoh et al. (US Re. 32,977). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons set forth below.

Gotoh et al. fail to teach that a first keyhousing integrally formed with said panel as recited in Claim 8. Referring to Column 3, lines 54-68 and Column 4, lines 1-12 as well as Figs. 3 and 4 of US Re. 32,977, the bosses (26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, and 33) indicated by Examiner are used to fasten the printed circuit board 42 and the retainer plate 34, rather than to be the key housings as recited in Claim 1. In fact, referring to Fig. 3, it should be understood that Gotoh et al. fail to teach any keyhousing integrated with the panel 21a. All of the keys are separated from the panel 21a, so all of the key housings are certainly non-integrated with the panel 21a. Therefore, US Re. 32,977 does not anticipate the present invention and Applicants therefore respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim Rejections –35 USC § 103

Claim 11 stands rejected under 36 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Gotoh et al. in view of JP 09-274825. Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

US Re. 32,977 addresses a keyboard easy to operate and provides a keyboard having a key holder plate for supporting keys with their top faces forming a cured operating surface. In contrast, as recited in Claim 8, the present invention provides a keyboard having a panel with integrally formed key housings and non-integrally formed key housings. US Re. 32,977, alone or in combination with JP 09-274825, nowhere teaches or suggests an integrally

formed keyhousing or a non-integrally formed keyhousings. Consequently, Claims 8-11 of the present application are not rendered obvious by Gotoh et al. alone or in combination with JP 09-274825.

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that all the claims clearly distinguish Applicants' invention over the patents relied on by the Examiner. Applicants therefore respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued to this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 5/18/06

By: 

Cynthia L. Pillote

Reg. No. 42,999

SNELL & WILMER, L.L.P.

One Arizona Center

400 East Van Buren

Phoenix, AZ 85004-2202

Phone: (602) 382-6296

Fax: (602) 382-6070

1835028.2